

Governance of international adaptation finance for local climate change adaptation

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Annex I. Addendum on Valorization of the Dissertation

This addendum discusses how the dissertation creates social value by making relevant knowledge available for translation into use by different audiences.

Reducing the impacts of climate change on vulnerable local populations in developing countries is widely recognized as an urgent task in the international development community. A key question that has grabbed the attention of global policy makers is how to get more adaptation finance to where it is needed most i.e. peoples and communities at the frontlines. Reflecting the high-level political recognition for the need to address this problem, the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) recently establishes “locally-led action” as a priority action track and calls for “significant increases in the volume of devolved and decentralized funding available to local governments, community-based organizations, and others working at the local level to identify, prioritize, implement, and monitor climate adaptation solutions.”⁸ The topic and findings of the dissertation are highly relevant and timely to inform this policy dialogue led by the GCA, and participated by key global players including climate funds, development banks, UN agencies, bilateral donors, national and local governments, private sector, civil society representatives etc.

The results of this research are shared with the above audiences and the public at large by several means. First, I made a summary presentation to the Adaptation Fund Secretariat, highlighting the findings from Chapter 7 on the role of the Fund in promoting agricultural innovations for climate change adaptation. The presentation led to an engaging discussion of the results.

⁸ <https://gca.org/global-commission-on-adaptation/action-tracks/locally-led-action>

According to the Fund's staff, the findings resonate with their experience and feedback from recipient countries, but also raise new perspectives, for example, on the important role of local research institutes and universities in developing homegrown innovations, and the usefulness of integrating a more poverty-sensitive lens (i.e. the bottom of pyramid) to innovation promotion and project evaluation. Given that innovation is a key pillar of the Fund's strategy, the dissertation's findings are valuable inputs to the ongoing strategy implementation and its future revision.

Second, by collaborating with Prof. Shyama Ramani, I am confident that the findings from this dissertation will be disseminated by SITE4Society.⁹ Through its activities including briefs, action research, workshops and training programmes, SITE4Society aims to connect and mobilize academia and society towards solving local and global challenges and contribute to all SDGs as set by the United Nations in 2015.

Third, the key findings of this dissertation have been published as journal articles. Chapter 6 presents a very novel finding to the study of and policy discourse on international adaptation finance for local actions—that access modalities to climate funds have less influence than many have argued in terms of driving the community focus in project design, and other enabling conditions, especially the conducive governance of civil society, are also at play. This Chapter has been published in the journal *Global Environmental Change*. Within the short period since it was released in March 2020, the article has been widely read and shared among researchers (e.g. through ResearchGate) and practitioners (e.g. through LinkedIn) and is beginning to receive citations. Chapter 5 has also been accepted for publication in the journal *Regional Environmental Change*, and Chapter 7 will be submitted for publication shortly.

⁹ <http://site4society.merit.unu.edu/>

Last but not least, this research has shaped my own thinking as a development practitioner, and therefore informed my professional work on climate change adaptation and climate finance at the World Bank. In particular, the knowledge and perspectives I gained through this research has been translated into my technical advice to teams to mainstream the adaptation perspective in lending projects. These projects come from sectors that highly matter for the welfare of local and marginalized populations, including agriculture, water and sanitation, social protection and urban development, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to them. I also had the opportunity to shape the design of analytical studies within the World Bank, and in the process, helped raise the profile of climate vulnerability and adaptation as an urgent development challenge, as well as emphasizing the critical role of financing, governance and community participation in addressing it.